**REFLECTIONS ON THE COMMUNITY DEDICATION**

Just over a month ago, our community rallied around The Patterson Foundation’s Military Initiative mission to honor veterans, inspire patriotism and embrace freedom by assembling together for the Community Dedication of Patriot Plaza.

Alicia Chalmers, Legacy of Valor Coordinator and Community Dedication Volunteer Coordinator extraordinary, reflects on the many volunteers who stepped up to create the memorable experience for everyone who attended Patriot Plaza on June 28 in her blog, Patriot Plaza volunteers show tremendous heart during dedication.

**WAYS TO CONNECT**

**NEWSLETTER SIGN UP**

Let your friends and family know about this bi-weekly Freedom. Front and Center. newsletter. If they are not already receiving the newsletter and would like to stay informed on the latest updates regarding Patriot Plaza and the Sarasota National Cemetery, please have them send an email to Erika Kelly at ekellyTPF@gmail.com requesting to be added to the email list.

**SEEN & HEARD**

Chaplain Charles Caudill, Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Retired), recently reflected on patriotism, in an article he wrote for the Military Officers Association of Sarasota’s newsletter. You can access the MOAS newsletter to read the article by clicking here.

To read Chaplain Caudill’s invocation from the Patriot Plaza Community Dedication, click here.

**THE FINAL WORD**

John Berteau, Chairman of The Patterson Foundation, shared his reflections on a recent visit to Patriot Plaza in his blog, A Legacy for the Ages.

“Like the Washington Monument, the edifice itself is the point. Like the stone obelisk honoring Washington, the glass and steel, the photographs and flag, they all make up the monument honoring our veterans for generations to come.”

Click here to read the full blog.

**SUBMIT IDEAS**

Have an upcoming event honoring veterans, a way for the community to continue to connect with veteran related services or activities, or a special veteran-honoring project your organization is proud of that you want to share with the community through the newsletter? Please share by sending to: Erika Kelly ekellyTPF@gmail.com

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